

THE FRIDAY FLASH !!!!!

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL, TEACHERS!!

Here's some of the latest news from across my desk hope it is helpful to you!

PERKINS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR

~from Brad King, CTE Unit Manager, Office of Public Instruction, dated August 12, 2008~

"There will be a second Technical Assistance Webinar held on **September 3 at 10:00 AM**. Participants will need Internet access on a sound-capable computer with external speakers. The Webinar will address changes to the Perkins E-Grant application. There is no cost to attend. Schools are encouraged to have interested personnel gather around a single computer to minimize connection costs." If you have further questions or to participate in the Webinar, **contact Brad King at bking2@mt.gov by Friday, August 29** or by phone at 406.444.4451. After registering, you'll be given login information to this Webinar via email.

PERKINS COMPETITIVE GRANTS AVAILABLE

~from Linda McCulloch, Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction, dated August 7, 2008~

"Applications are now available online for two competitive Perkins grant programs.

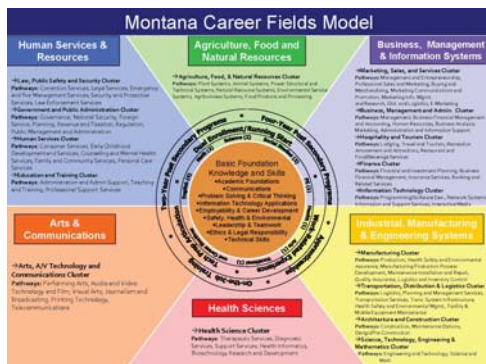
Grant ONE: The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is currently requesting applications for the development of secondary school counselor training that will assist counselors in preparing students for Career Pathways. The applicant will also develop Career Pathways materials that aid counselors in this effort, in conjunction with the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Career and Technical specialists and/or OCHE staff. The Montana State Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE) states these funds are to be competitively let and jointly administered by OCHE and the OPI. This is a two-year grant ending May 1, 2010.

Grant TWO: The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is currently requesting applications for the development of Health Sciences programs in rural secondary schools that prepare individuals for training and employment in the healthcare industry. The Montana State Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE) states these funds are to be competitively let and jointly administered by OCHE and the OPI."

Applications can be found on the OCHE web site at: http://mus.edu/wd/grant_apps.asp. If you have questions, contact TJ Eyer, Division Administrator at 406.444.7915 or Brad King, CTE Unit Manager at 406.444.4451.

CAREER CLUSTERS~MONTANA MODEL

~from Diana Fiedler, Business & Marketing Education Specialist, OPI, dated, August 14, 2008~



"Much work has occurred during the 2008-08 school year involving the Career Clusters movement in Montana. Hopefully, many of you have found the 'CTE Weekly Updates' located on the Montana ACTE web site helpful in keeping up to speed with our progress.

The Business Pathway Advisory Board met four times during the school year—with representation from secondary educators from AA, A, B, and C-size schools, post-secondary educators, and business

and industry partners. The two specific clusters from the Business, Management, & Information Systems career field that were developed in 2007-08:

Business Financial Management & Accounting cluster

Administrative & Information Support cluster

For more information about Business Pathways in Montana, please contact Cathey White, Eastern Region Business Cluster Coordinator at cwhite@msubillings.edu or Diana Fiedler at dfiedler@mt.gov.

TECH PREP ARTICULATION

~from Diana Fiedler, Business & Marketing Education Specialist, OPI, CTE Weekly Update, dated June 23, 2008~

"Using the Central Montana Tech Prep model, Courtney Johnsrud and Cathey White will coordinate a post-secondary faculty meeting in the fall of 2008 to discuss articulation. Post-secondary instructors will create common outcomes for the business pathway-connected courses currently articulated. Results will be forwarded on to secondary teachers for their use in articulating specific courses. The articulation review will connect courses and programs to the Business Management and Information Systems clusters and Big Sky Pathways. The target due date is December 31, 2008. It is the hope and expectation of the Advisory Board that this process will streamline the state-wide articulation process and be a helpful tool for students to claim and use their articulated credit not only regionally, but around the state. All Tech Prep articulated courses will be reported to and housed in a database located at Flathead Valley Community College.

During this 'transition year' the 'B or Better' lists of articulated credits from schools may not have been turned in or reported. If you have a 'B or Better' list that needs to be turned in, please send them to either Bill Roope at broope@fvcc.edu or to Cathey White at cwhite@msubillings.edu by email or via the US Postal Service. Students can use petition forms or a counselor may write a letter regarding the articulated class for submission to the specific college Registrar. **Please contact either Bill or Cathey if you have questions."**

PERSONAL FINANCE TEACHER RESOURCE

~from Knowledge Matters, dated Spring, 2008~

"Engage your students with a personal finance curriculum built around a totally visual computer-based simulation. Virtual Business—Personal Finance will let your students learn and practice all the key personal financial and career skills they'll need to succeed in life including, bank accounts, credit and debit cards, bills, credit scores, taxes, insurance, investing, and more. With over 150 pages of written course material, 50 written exercises, 18 computer-based exercises, projects, and multiplayer competitions, Virtual Business--Personal Finance is your one-stop solution for a personal finance curriculum. **Download a FREE DEMO at:** www.KnowledgeMatters.com/VBPFdemo or call 1.877.965.3276.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT DRAGON SOFTWARE PRICING

~from Bonnie Brockman, Dragon-Certified Trainer, dated July 29, 2008~

"I have received some good news from Carl Fielder, President of Speaking Solutions. For years Carl has been trying ... to offer better educational incentives to secondary and post-secondary schools. Finally, ... they are going to be offering state initiatives whereby schools can purchase the latest version of Dragon licenses at about a 30% discount on current prices ... including the Nifty 59 book for the latest version of Dragon (if purchased from sole source Speaking Solutions)! Someone in the state must sign-off on this incentive, but there is no cost to the state and the only possible "penalty" would be that the pricing discount incentive would be withdrawn after a period of time if schools do not take advantage of it. **For more information, please contact Dr. Carl Fielder at:** drfielder@yahoo.com."

FREE SPORTS/ENTERTAINMENT TEXTBOOK

~from Chris Lindauer, President, Sports Career Consulting, LLC, dated June 11, 2008~

"As the owner of a sports marketing company in Portland, Oregon, we provide education resources (curriculum, events, project-based learning programs) for high school business teachers around the country. Specifically, our emphasis is in the area of sports/entertainment. We have partnerships in place with a number of student leadership programs around the country to provide their members with discounts on any of our membership programs (the partnership does NOT cost anything). We recently launched a **free sports and entertainment business non-traditional textbook (in PDF format) on our website** ... if you or any of your members would like access, please download the publication from: www.sportscareerconsulting.com. There is a student workbook up there as well ... also free. For more information, contact Chris directly at: chris@sportscareerconsulting.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MONTANA TEACHERS!

~from Stacey Alzheimer, Council Administrator, Montana Council on Economic Education, dated May, 2008~

HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Third place: Conrad High School, Janie McFarland, instructor

STOCK MARKET GAME

First place: Bozeman High School, Kerri Cobb, instructor

Second place: Park High School, Regina Wood, instructor

MONTANA BPA HONORED BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA!

~from Diana Fiedler, Montana BPA State Advisor, dated August 4, 2008~

"In today's mail I received a beautiful framed plaque from Special Olympics Montana—listing Montana BPA as a Bronze Medal Sponsor for 2008! Earlier in the summer I received a lovely letter from Bob Norbie, President and CEO of Special Olympics Montana that said, *'Thank you most sincerely for being part of the Special Olympics Montana mission through your generous donation of time, talent and treasure. And thank you for inviting Billings' athlete, Kerrie Sheets and me to the BPA Montana Association conference to receive your Chain of Love and the cash donation of \$3,863.06. Kerrie was thrilled to speak to the 1,200 BPA members!'* I have plans to post a photo of this award held by our state officer team on our web site as soon as the officers meet in person. As your state advisor, I am so proud of every Montana BPA chapter and the entire membership that made the wonderful state-wide community service project a possibility!!"



DATES TO INCLUDE ON YOUR CALENDARS

September 10-12, 2008, 2008 Annual *Conference on Financial Education*, Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, please contact the Institute for Financial Literacy at: conference@financiallit.org or by phone: 207.221.3611.

October 22-25, 2008, *National Career Pathways Network 2008 Annual Conference* in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more conference information, visit: www.ncpn.info.

January 16-28, 2009, 9th annual *Marketing Education Conference*, Golden Nugget Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information, visit our web site: www.nationalmea.org.

February 22-24, 2009, *Montana DECA Career Development Conference*, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT.

March 8-10, 2009, *Montana BPA State Leadership Conference*, in Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell, MT.

April 29- May 2, 2009, *DECA International Career Development Conference* in Anaheim, CA.

May 6-10, 2009, *BPA National Leadership Conference* in Dallas, TX.

From the desk of:

Diana D. Fiedler

Business & Marketing Education Specialist

State Advisor, *Business Professionals of America* & DECA

Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

Tel: 406-444-7991 Fax: 406-444-1373

Email: dfiedler@mt.gov